

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An information processing method of
distributing across a network a device driver program
5 for controlling a network device to a client apparatus
for managing the network device, comprising:
a designation step of designating range
information for searching for a network device
connected to the network;
10 a search step of searching for the network device
corresponding to the designated range information; and
a distribution step of distributing a device
driver program to the client apparatus for managing the
network device within the range searched in the search
15 step.
2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further
comprising an acquisition step of acquiring address
information of the network device on the basis of data
20 obtained by the result of search of the network device
in the search step,
wherein the distribution step performs the
distribution process by using the address information
acquired in the acquisition step.
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3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further
comprising a recognition step of recognizing a

preparation completion notification indicating that an
accepting module which is activated in the client
apparatus as a transfer destination of the device
driver program and receives the device driver program
5 is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the
device driver program in response to recognition of the
preparation completion notification in the recognition
step.

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4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the
acquisition step acquires network address information
corresponding to the range information for search, on
the basis of data obtained by the result of search of
15 the network device.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
range designated to search for the network device is
designated for each domain, each OU (Organization Unit)
20 in a directory service, or each IP address.

6. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for
distributing across a network a device driver program
for controlling a network device to a client apparatus
25 for managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating range
information for searching for a network device

connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range information; and

5 distributing means for distributing a device driver program to said client apparatus for managing said network device within the range searched by said searching means.

10 7. (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a device driver program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

15 a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range
20 information; and

a distribution module for distributing a device driver program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

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8. (Amended) An information processing method of distributing across a network a device driver program

for controlling a network device to a client apparatus
for managing the network device, comprising:

a designation step of designating geographical
range information for searching for a network device
5 connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the network device
corresponding to the designated geographical range
information; and

a distribution step of distributing a device
10 driver program to a client apparatus for managing the
network device within a geographical range searched in
the search step.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the
15 geographical range information designated to search for
the network device contains a room, floor, or building
of a structure in which the network device is
installed, or a municipality, a prefecture, or a nation
in which the network device is installed.

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10. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, further
comprising a recognition step of recognizing a
preparation completion notification indicating that an
accepting module which is activated in the client
25 apparatus as a transfer destination of the device
driver program and receives the device driver program
is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the device driver program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification in the recognition step.

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11. The method according to claim 8, further comprising a setting step of allowing the network device to detect position information corresponding to the geographical range, and set the detected position
10 information in a memory such that the detected position information can be compared with the geographical range information.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the
15 setting step sets the position information corresponding to the geographical range in the memory on the basis of information detected by using a GPS.

13. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for
20 distributing across a network a device driver program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

designating means for designating geographical range information for searching for a network device
25 connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical

range information; and

distributing means for distributing a device
driver program to a client apparatus for managing said
network device within a geographical range searched by
5 said searching means.

14. (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to
execute information processing for distributing across
a network a device driver program for controlling a
10 network device to a client apparatus for managing said
network device, comprising:

a designation module for designating geographical
range information for searching for a network device
connected to said network;

15 a search module for searching for said network
device corresponding to the designated geographical
range information; and

a distribution module for distributing a device
driver program to a client apparatus for managing said
20 network device within a geographical range searched by
execution of said search module.

15. (Amended) An information processing method of
distributing across a network a device driver program
25 for controlling a network device to a client apparatus
for managing the network device, comprising:

a first search step of searching for the client

apparatus connected to the network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

5 a second search step of searching for a network device connected to a client apparatus found in the first search step by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information; and

a distribution step of distributing to the client apparatus the device driver program for
10 controlling a network device found in the second search step.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the script information for generating the second device
15 search module contains range information concerning a network address for specifying the network device or information concerning a geographical range.

17. (Amended) An information processing apparatus for
20 distributing across a network a device driver program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

first searching means for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by using a
25 first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

second searching means for searching for a

network device connected to a client apparatus found by said first searching means by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information; and

5 distributing means for distributing to said client apparatus the device driver program for controlling a network device found by said second searching means.

10 18. (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to execute information processing for distributing across a network a device driver program for controlling a network device to a client apparatus for managing said network device, comprising:

15 a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

 a second search module for searching for a
20 network device connected to a client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information; and

 a distribution module for distributing to said
25 client apparatus the device driver program for controlling a network device found by execution of said second search module.

19. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a device driver program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

5 a designation module for designating range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

 a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated range

10 information; and

 a distribution module for distributing a device driver program to a client for managing said network device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

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20. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a device driver program for controlling a network device, wherein said program comprises:

 a designation module for designating geographical
20 range information for searching for a network device connected to said network;

 a search module for searching for said network device corresponding to the designated geographical range information; and

25 a distribution module for distributing a device driver program to a client apparatus for managing said network device within a geographical range searched by

execution of said search module.

21. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium
storing a device driver program for controlling a

5 network device, wherein said program comprises:

a first search module for searching for said
client apparatus connected to said network by executing
a first device search module generated on the basis of
script information;

10 a second search module for searching for a
network device connected to a client apparatus found by
execution of said first search module by executing a
second device search module generated on the basis of
script information; and

15 a distribution module for distributing to said
client apparatus the device driver program for
controlling a network device found by execution of said
second search module.